

Topics in social and health informatics research

In 2015, the 18th Research Days of Social and Health Informatics Association and this number of the Finnish Journal of eHealth and eWelfare include a representative and timely sample of research results on topics such as e-health services, the use of electronic health record information in secondary purposes or medical signal processing.

What kind of e-health services do citizens need? Citizens need to view their medical records. Citizen can see some information in My Kanta pages. Public and private healthcare units are already using electronic prescriptions. Entering of medical records into the Patient Data Repository has begun throughout Finland, both in public and private healthcare. My Kanta pages allow a citizen to view all his electronic prescriptions. A citizen can also view his medical records in My Kanta pages. The medical records will be shown in the service after the healthcare unit has started to enter data into the Patient Data Repository. In future a citizen can see more information in My Kanta pages e.g. laboratory results, key physiological measurement data, vaccinations and medication. Furthermore, citizens also need a new peer electronic service, a wide range of electronic services before and after the hospital visit, as well as support services for such as guidance or interaction between staff and customers in hospital.

In healthcare services should be directed towards promoting health and preventing illness while resources

for providing these services are becoming scarcer. Citizen's e-health services help ensure the well-being of the citizens with equal opportunities for health promotion and access to the services that do not require a physical visit. Realization of benefits also requires that the service processes will be renewed exploiting new technologies. Studies are needed to investigate the impact of e-health services on the use of healthcare services.

The evaluation process for the Research Days and the Journal was conducted using the double-blind method. Each submission received feedback in the reviewers' own words and ratings in 11 categories from at least two reviewers. In addition, the reviewers were asked to propose papers for presentation in a joint session with a national industry conference (namely the Healthcare IT convention). Based on the ratings, four papers were reviewed by two more reviewers. The best paper was thus selected based on ratings from four reviewers. The editor gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Kaija Saranto, Reima Suomi, Johanna Lammintakanen, Sirpa Kuusisto-Niemi, Johanna Kaipio, Ulla-Mari Kinnunen, Maija Valta, Katja Heikkinen, Tiina Kortteisto, Hannele Hyppönen, Virpi Hotti and Elina Rajalahti, who acted as reviewers. Irmeli Luukkonen and Pirkko Nykänen were involved in selecting the best paper.

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Editor-in-Charge